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No. Covid19/kharip2020/92/2020.
Department of Revenue and Forest,
Disaster Management,
Relief and Rehabilitation,
Mantralaya, Mumbai-400032.

Date: 4th May, 2020.

To

District Collectors.... (All)
Maharashtra State

Subject: Regarding Kharif 2020 agriculture activities during lockdown period

On the background of Covid-19 lockdown, Government of India as well as Government of Maharashtra has issued orders allowing free movement of agriculture produce, manufacturing, distribution and retail of agriculture inputs, sale of various agriculture machinery and equipment etc. It was made explicitly clear that various agriculture operations like harvesting; post harvesting, processing etc. should not be hampered.

In the light of ensuing Kharip 2020 season, the district administration should ensure unrestricted pre-sowing activities, movement of labourers, transport and sale of seeds, fertilizers and other machineries. Looking at the limited time available for all these activities following instructions should be followed.

1. All Krishi Seva Kendras as well as other shops for sale / repair of agriculture machinery and equipments should be kept open full time to avoid crowding. In exceptional circumstances local administration may consider changing the timings of the shops if necessary.

2. To facilitate free movement of agriculture labourers, input industry personnel and agriculture and related departmental officials, the passes issued by local agriculture authorities should be accepted. Necessary instructions in this regard should be given to the police machinery by the District Magistrates.

3. As far as possible, services of agriculture staff should not be requisitioned for Covid-19 duties, as their services are necessary to carry out pre kharif activities, in case it is unavailable, their requisition should be done as the last resort.

(Ajoy Mehta)
Chief Secretary,
Government of Maharashtra

Copy: 1) Commissioner Agriculture, Maharashtra State, Pune-1

2) Divisional Commissioner (All), Maharashtra State.